

LANGER MORGEN

The *Langer Morgen* Work Education Camp

The *Langer Morgen* work education camp was a prison camp that was established in May 1943 by the Hamburg Gestapo in Hamburg-Wilhelmsburg, initially as a men's camp, and was supplemented by a women's camp in the summer of 1944. It was located in the industrial and port area at a street called *Langer Morgen* at Reiherstieg and was intended for about 1,000 people. The total number of detainees between 1943 and 1945 cannot be reconstructed, but it must have been about 5,000 people.

The camp was located close to port operations, railway construction and the Wilhelmsburg oil industry, so that it was easy to organise the use of the prisoners in these areas of work. The additional labour force from the work education camp enabled Wilhelmsburg's industrial companies to increase their productivity. State institutions and private-sector port operations in Wilhelmsburg worked closely together to pursue economic interests.



Identity card of Anna Guk (issued presumably in 1944), who had to work at the Dräger-Werke in Wandsbek. At the beginning of 1944, after an escape attempt, she was taken to the Langer Morgen work education camp. (KZ-Gedenkstätte Neuengamme)

Working and detention conditions

The maximum term of imprisonment in the *Langer Morgen* work education camp was 56 days, although in exceptional cases this period was exceeded. The poor working and detention conditions in the camp were intended to act as a disciplinary instrument of repression for the companies' workers, because unlike concentration camps, the work education camps provided for a return to work. During an air raid on Hamburg on August 29-30, 1944, the camp was almost completely destroyed.

After the war

From May 21 to June 28, 1948, a trial was held by the British Military Government in which 15 guards of the camp were charged with mistreatment of prisoners. The trial resulted in two death sentences that were not carried out and ten prison sentences. All convicted persons were released from the mid-1950s onward. Today, an information board of the "*Hamburg Tafelprogramm*" commemorates the former existence of the work education camp. The buildings of *Langer Morgen* are no longer preserved; freight railroad tracks are located on the former site.



Forced labourer Fenja Ignatjewna Ssachazkaja in front of the camp Langer Morgen, 1945. Here she had to work in the camp's kitchen. (KZ-Gedenkstätte Neuengamme)

